

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims to read as indicated below.

1. (currently amended) A system comprising:

a processor; and

a memory ~~that contains a program that controls said processor to perform actions of~~
coupled to said processor, said processor configured to:

(a) ~~receive-receiving~~ a request that indicates that a user desires a determination of an
authenticity of a business partner;

(b) ~~receive-receiving~~ an identity of said business partner from said user;

(c) ~~match-matching~~ said identity of said business partner to a business data record of
a business that is one of a plurality of businesses by searching at least one
database for said business data record having at least one data attribute that
matches said identity;

~~if step (c) finds a match~~ said business data record is found, then:

determine ~~determining~~ whether said business partner is authentic by
processing at least one of said data attribute of ~~the-matched~~ said
business data record according to a set of authentication rules,
wherein said data attribute represents at least one credential of said
business partner; and

~~if step (c) fails to find a match~~ said business data record is not found, then:

present ~~presenting~~ a registration template to said business partner for
registration in said business database;

obtain ~~obtaining~~ registration data from said business partner via said
registration template; and

update ~~updating~~ said business database with said registration data; and

(d) ~~notify-notifying~~ said user of whether said business partner is authentic.

2. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 1, wherein said processor ~~performs said actions in combination with a user device via a network~~ is configured to communicate, via a network, with a device that is employed by said user.

3. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 1, ~~further comprising: providing wherein said processor is configured to provide a standard template for entry of data for said identity of said business partner, wherein a data format of said template is compatible with a computer system that performs steps (a) and (b).~~

4. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 3, wherein said processor is configured to present said standard template ~~is presented~~ to said user for completion.

5. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 3, wherein said processor is configured to present said standard template ~~is presented~~ to said business partner for completion.

6. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 1, wherein said authentication rules require one or more current transactions with trade references.

7. (canceled)

8. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 1, ~~further comprising: searching wherein said processor is configured to search~~ said business database for said credential of said business partner.

9. (currently amended) The ~~method~~ system of claim 8, wherein said credential is selected from the group consisting of: license, purchase authority, bank account verification, professional memberships and industry memberships.

10. (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

a device that receives a request that indicates that a user desires a determination of an authenticity of a business partner;

a processor; and

a memory ~~that contains a program that controls said processor to perform actions of~~
coupled to said processor, said processor configured to:

(a) receive ~~receiving~~ an identity of said business partner from said user;

(b) match ~~matching~~ said identity of said business partner to a business data record of a business that is one of a plurality of businesses by searching at least one database for said business data record having at least one data attribute that matches said identity;

(c) ~~if said matching finds a match~~ said business data record is found, then:

determine ~~determining~~ whether said business partner is authentic by processing at least one of said data attribute of ~~the matched~~ said business data record with at least one business according to a set of authentication rules, wherein said data attribute represents at least one credential of said business partner;

(d) ~~if said matching fails to find a match~~ said business data record is not found, then:

present ~~presenting~~ a registration template to said business partner for registration in said business database;

obtain ~~obtaining~~ registration data from said business partner via said registration template; and

update ~~updating~~ said business database with said registration data; and

(e) notify ~~notifying~~ said user of whether said business partner is authentic.

11. (canceled)

12. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 10, wherein ~~said program also controls said processor to perform an action of providing said processor is configured to provide~~
a standard template for entry of data for said identity of said business partner, ~~wherein a data format of said template is compatible with a data handling capability of said matching.~~

13. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 12, wherein said processor is configured to present said standard template ~~is presented~~ to said user for completion.

14. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 12, wherein said processor is configured to present said standard template ~~is presented~~ to said business partner for completion.

15. (original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said authentication rules require one or more current transactions with trade references.

16. (canceled)

17. (currently amended) The computer system of claim 10, wherein ~~said program also controls said processor to perform an action of searching~~ said processor is configured to search said business database for said credential of said business partner.

18. (original) The computer system of claim 10, wherein said credential is selected from the group consisting of: license, purchase authority, bank account verification, professional memberships and industry memberships.